REPORT

OF THE

Executive Committee

OF THE

New York Civil-Service Reform Association

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 20, 1891.

NEW YORK
PUBLISHED FOR THE
CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM ASSOCIATION
1891

Publications of the National Civil-Service Reform League

Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the National Civil-Service Reform League, 1882, with address by George William Curtis Per copy, 10 cts.

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The Year's Work in Civil-Service Reform. (Address of 1884.) By George William Curtis.

Civil-Service Reform under the present National Administration. (Address of 1885.) By George William Curtis.

The Situation. (Address of 1886.) By George William Curtis.

Address to the Voters of the United States. By George William Curtis.

The Selection of Laborers. By James M. Bugbee of the Mass. C. S. Commission.

The same in German.

Report of the Special Committee on the present Condition of the Reform Movement, March 16, 1887.

Civil Service Reform as a Moral Question. By Chas. J. Bonaparte. Per 100, ... 60 cts.

Constitution of the National Civil-Service Reform League.

Also a few copies of some early publications.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE NEW YORK CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM ASSOCIATION.

II. **The Beginning of the Spoils System in the National Government, 1829-30.** (Reprinted, by permission, from Parton's "Life of Andrew Jackson.") Per copy, 5 cts. Per 100, $3 00

III. **The Spoils System and Civil-Service Reform in the Custom-House and Post-Office at New York.** By Dorman B. Eaton. 136 pages, 8vo. Per copy, 15 cts. Per 100, . . $10 00

IV. **Civil-Service Reform in the New York Custom-House.** By Willard Brown. Per copy, 5 cts. Per 100, . . . $3 00

V. **Term and Tenure of Office.** By Dorman B. Eaton. Per copy, 25 cts. Second edition, abridged. Per copy, 15 cts Per 100, . $10 00

VII. **The Danger of an Office-Holding Aristocracy.** By E. L. Godkin. Per copy, 5 cts. Per 100, . . . $3 00

Daniel Webster and the Spoils System. An extract from Senator Bayard's oration at Dartmouth College, June, 1882. Per copy, 3 cts. Per 100, ... $1 50

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NEW YORK CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM ASSOCIATION.

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 20, 1891.

AT the Annual meeting of the Association held on the 7th of May, 1890, the following officers were elected:

President.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

Vice-Presidents.

JOHN JAY,
CARL SCHURZ,
FRANCIS C. BARLOW,
ORLANDO B. POTTER,
WILLIAM E. DODGE,
D. WILLIS JAMES,
OSWALD OTTENDORFER,
HORACE E. DEMING.

Executive Committee.

R. R. BOWKER,
SILAS W. BURT,
EDWARD CARY,
CHARLES COLLINS,
A. R. MACDONOUGH,
ALEX. MACKAY-SMITH,
JACOB F. MILLER,
GEO. HAVEN PUTNAM,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
ANSON PHELPS STOKES,
RUSSELL STURGIS,
WM. H. THOMSON,
HORACE WHITE,
EVERETT P. WHEELER,
F. W. WHITRIDGE.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held immediately after the adjournment of the Annual meeting, Mr. Wheeler was unanimously re-elected Chairman, and Messrs. Bursley and Potts were unanimously re-elected Treasurer and Secretary respectively, and Mr. Edward Kendrick was appointed Assistant Secretary. The several standing Committees were reconstituted as follows:

Publication Committee.

CHARLES COLLINS, Chairman,
E. L. GODKIN,
GEO. WILLIAM CURTIS,
GEORGE R. BISHOP,
WILLIAM POTTS.

Committee on Legislation.

FRED. W. WHITRIDGE, Chairman,
GEO. WALTON GREEN,
CARL SCHURZ,
ELIAL F. HALL,
EVERETT P. WHEELER.

Auditing Committee.

HORACE WHITE, Chairman,
CHARLES COLLINS.

Committee on Finance.

ANSON PHELPS STOKES, Chairman,
ORLANDO B. POTTER,
EDWARD B. MERRILL,
J. HAMPDEN ROBB,
SAMUEL P. AVERY.

Committee on Affiliated Societies.

HAMILTON B. TOMPKINS, Chairman, JACOB F. MILLER,
HORACE E. DEMING, WILLIAM POTTS,
HENRY T. TERRY.

Committee on Civil-Service Examinations.

DORMAN B. EATON, Chairman A. R. MACDONOUGH,
WILLIAM L. TRENHOLM. CARL SCHURZ,
C. W. WATSON.

During the summer the Association met with a serious loss in the sudden death of the Hon. Walter Howe, who had long been one of the most faithful and efficient members of its Executive Committee, and to this loss in the early autumn there was added that caused by the death of Mr. Ira Bursley, for so many years the Treasurer of this Association and of the National League. The Committee took a melancholy pleasure in publicly testifying to the long, constant and valuable services of these gentlemen, which it could simply praise, but could not measure.

At the Committee meeting in November, Mr. Potts was elected Treasurer to succeed Mr. Bursley, and subsequently Mr. Eaton was made a member of the Committee on Affiliated Societies in place of Mr. Potts, and Mr. Seth S. Terry was made a member of the Committee on Civil-Service Examinations in place of Mr. Eaton.

The Association will be glad to learn from the report of the Treasurer that we have not been obliged to trench upon the guarantee fund, but on the contrary carry forward a balance slightly greater than that of last year.

At the time of the last Annual Meeting Congress was still in session, and several measures likely seriously to injure the National Civil Service were pending, notably a resolution for the appointment without a Civil-Service Examination, of thirty additional Pension Examiners, and an act proposing to extend still

further the preference given to veterans. We are glad to say that neither of these measures was passed.

During the session just ended, Mr. Lodge's bill regarding fourth-class post-offices was re-introduced, and at the suggestion of the Hon. Wm. Dudley Foulke, a bill was introduced proposing to require the statement of reasons for removal in certain cases, but neither of these measures obtained the support of Congress. Much time was given by the House Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment to an investigation of the operation and effect of the Civil-Service law, and at the very close of the session the Committee made an elaborate report, giving in general a hearty endorsement to the reformed system, and accompanied the same with a bill containing many valuable features. The report appeared, however, at so late a date, that no action could be taken upon it.

A serious contest took place over the appropriation for the Civil-Service Commission, which at one time seemed in danger of being lost. Through the vigorous work of Messrs. Lodge and others upon both sides of the House this misfortune was prevented, however, and the appropriation was passed in substantially the usual form.

In the New York Legislature a bill was introduced by Senator Ahearn, which was extremely obscure in its meaning, but was evidently intended in some way to injure the probability of appointment of those found best qualified through the Civil-Service Examinations, but it failed to pass. A bill altering the Ballot law of last year in a most vicious manner was however passed by both Houses and signed by the Governor against the substantially unanimous protest of the friends of reform. Although this bill was not ostensibly directly related to the Civil-Service System, and the Executive Committee has from the first leaned toward a strict limitation of the field of its official action, it was unanimous in the belief that its means of effecting the purpose for which it was organized were so seriously threatened by the passage

of the bill as to justify it in uniting cordially with the other protesting bodies.

We regret to have to record that bills proposing to establish the system of Civil-Service Examinations in Indiana and in Pennsylvania, were defeated during the late legislative season.

We also regret to be compelled to say that no progress has yet been made in the matter of the officials indicted in Washington many months ago for participation in the levying of political assessments. The delay cannot be characterized otherwise than as disgraceful. On the other hand, the Court of Appeals of this State, in October last, rendered unanimously two of the most important opinions relating to the Service which have ever been filed, fully sustaining the Civil-Service law, and the positions taken by the Buffalo Association by which the cases were brought We cannot praise too heartily the vigor and persistency with which the sister Association has performed its work.

The New York State Commission and the Municipal Commissions of New York and Brooklyn remain as constituted a year ago. Of the effectiveness of the action of the Brooklyn Commission we are assured. We should be gratified if our own knowledge, or public repute enabled us to speak with the same confidence of the other Commissions. It is possible that the merits of both may be greater than public rumor makes them, but those who are familiar with the ground which should be cultivated by these boards, when contrasting what is known to have been accomplished by them with that which has been done by the United States Civil-Service Commission under conditions at least as discouraging, cannot but feel that somewhere and for some cause there are lost opportunities. The vigorous action of the United States Commission and especially of our fellow member, Mr Roosevelt, merits our unqualified admiration and commendation.

A year ago, as at other times, hope was expressed that something might be done by the New York Municipal Commission in

the direction of the registration of laborers: nothing, however, has as yet been accomplished. During the winter our Executive Committee appointed a Special Committee consisting of Col. Burt, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Whitridge, Mr. Payson Merrill and Mr. Chas. B. Stover, to further the views of the Association in this regard; and this committee cordially co-operated with a committee subsequently appointed by Mayor Grant to consider the matter of street cleaning, and aided it in procuring the information upon which was based the valuable recommendations made in its report made public a number of weeks ago. We cannot but feel that through the action of this committee a substantial impression has been made upon the public mind.

Early in the year we prepared and printed a German translation of the "Primer of Civil-Service Reform," and made some effort towards its general distribution, but we are constrained to say that we have not yet distributed so large a number as we should desire. It would give the Committee and its Secretary pleasure to respond to a larger call than has yet reached them, for copies of all publications which remain in print.

We have procured the publication of facts regarding the relation of Civil-Service Reform to the Indian Service, and have continued to circulate a considerable number of copies of the *Civil Service Record*, and have done something in aid of the *Civil Service Chronicle*. The work of these journals and of the *Civil Service Reformer*, continues greatly serviceable to the cause.

We have watched with sympathetic interest, the careful and judicious work done by the Brooklyn Association in obtaining an authoritative expression of feeling on the part of representative citizens regarding the evils connected with the management of our Navy Yards, and have hailed with the most hearty and grateful appreciation, the announcement of Secretary Tracy, that he was unalterably determined that the causes of complaint should be removed, and that a satisfactory non-partisan system of appointment therein should be substituted for the corrupt sys-

tem which has been allowed to exist so long to the injury both of the public welfare and honest party management.

For this announcement, since followed by practical measures now in progress, and for the inclusion within the Civil-Service Rules of a small portion of the Indian Service, (which, we trust, may be taken as an earnest of much more extended action in that direction hereafter), the present National Administration merits our hearty thanks. They mark a forward movement of the utmost importance, and must tend to impress upon the minds of those whose attention has not hitherto been arrested by it, the fact of which we have always been assured, that the progress of reform is irresistible.

Respectfully submitted.

EVERETT P. WHEELER,
Chairman.

WILLIAM POTTS,
Secretary.

NEW YORK, May 20, 1890.

WILLIAM POTTS, Treasurer,

In Account with THE CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM ASSOCIATION.

To Balance from old acc. May 1, 1890			$ 344.15
" Cash for Dues, April 30, 1891	$1,793.00		
" Subscriptions	879.91		
" Documents	8.16		
" Stationery	1.13		
" Interest	7.98		
			$2,690.18
			$3,034.33
To Balance brought forward			$389 14

By Cash Salary of Secretary, April 30, '91	$700.00	
" Howard Ins. Co., for Office Rent, Asst. Sec., etc.	958 33	
" Clerks	17.50	
" Rent Meeting Room	90.00	
" Stationery and Printing	259.19	
" Legal Expenses	150.00	
" National League	50.00	
" *Civil Service Record*	89.91	
" *Civil Service Chronicle*	100.00	
" Postage and Stamped Envelopes	35.50	
" Removal Expenses & Carpenter work	111.70	
" Translating Primer into German	25 00	
" Petty expenses	58.06	
		$2,645.19
Balance carried forward		389.14
		$3,034.33

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NEW YORK, April 30, 1891.

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The "Pendleton Bill." Bill to Regulate and Improve the Civil Service of the United States, as approved.

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The same for '85.

The same for '86.

The same for '87.

The same for '88.

The same for '89.

The same for '90.

The same for '91.

Hon. Augustus Schoonmaker upon the Merit System.

The Workingmen's Interest in Civil Service Reform. Address by Hon Henry A. Richmond.

Civil Service Reform, An address by Hon. Henry A. Richmond.

Constitution and By-Laws of New York Association.

Also a few copies of some early publications.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Civil Service in Great Britain. By Dorman B. Eaton. Per copy, 25 cts.

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Civil-Service Examinations. Being question papers with actual answers of successful and unsuccessful candidates. By R. R. Bowker. Per copy, - - - - - - - 12 cts.

Decisions and Opinions in Construction of the Civil Service Laws.

Massachusetts Civil-Service Reform Act

Report of the U. S. Civil-Service Commission, 1889.

The same for '88.

Report of the N. Y. Civil Service Commission, 1887.

The same for '89.

The same for '90.

Also a few other miscellaneous publications.

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OSWALD OTTENDORFER,
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Secretary and Treasurer,

WILLIAM POTTS.

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